

SITUATION REPORT NO. 02
INCIDENT NO. 2001 - 072
DATE: July 20, 2001 TIME: 3:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Summer Storms.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: On July 17, Kidder County experienced hail, strong winds and heavy rain. Six miles east and seven miles north of Tuttle, rural residents received golf ball size hail damaging homes and farm buildings. Golf ball size hail fell in the city of Robinson and caused damage to homes, businesses, vehicles, and trees. Up to baseball size hail, combined with very strong winds, broke windows and caused other structural damage on homes, businesses, vehicles and also damaged trees in the city of Pettibone. One rural resident suffered major damage to a quonset, grain bins, two barns, corrals, and the farm house. South of Pettibone, several irrigation pivot systems sustained major damage.

In Cass County on July 17, a severe storm followed a southeasterly path from the city of Wheatland through the Chaffee, Lynchburg, Kindred areas and proceeded toward Richland County. Heavy rain, high winds, and up to baseball size hail in the Chaffee, and Lynchburg areas damaged homes, an assortment of other private property, vehicles, and flattened corn and other small grain crops. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported that a total of 8,050 acres were affected by this storm.

As the storm moved into Richland County, high winds affected an area from the northwest corner of the county going in a southeasterly direction to the city of Mooreton. In the center of this area, several townships were hit by hail. The USDA reported that 138,886 acres were affected.

According to the USDA Flash Situation Report for Steele County, a storm went through on July 17. An area eight miles wide and ten miles long beginning two miles west of County Highway 25 and proceeding southeast to east of State Highway 32 in the Blabon area was hit by hail, high winds and up to six inches of rainfall. Approximately 60,484 acres were affected with total loss from hail on 10,440 acres. Some losses to buildings consisted of broken windows, siding and roof damage.

On July 18, high winds up to 60 miles per hour, heavy rain in varied amounts up to four inches, and localized regions of hail caused damage to crops and homes in some rural areas of Pembina County. Several homes, in the city of Pembina, sustained roof damage and broken windows. A funnel cloud was spotted between Neche and Pembina, 5 miles west of Crystal, and in the St. Thomas area. A tornado was reported to have touched down 2 miles south of Pembina. Saturated roadways continue to create significant accessibility problem.

Strong winds uprooted several trees in the Logan County community of Napoleon on July 18-19. Pea size hail fell in Gackle and Napoleon.

On July 18, Grand Forks County experienced urban street flooding due to rainfall amounts ranging from 2.88 inches to 4.90 inches. Water seeped into several basements. Funnel clouds were sighted in several areas within the county.

Walsh County officials indicated pea to quarter size hail caused limited damage to crops the evening of July 18. In addition, electrical outages occurred in the cities of Grafton and Park River.

A storm producing high winds moved through Grant County during the late night of July 19 and early morning of July 20. The winds uprooted trees, ripped off siding and did other structural damage to buildings and left crops laying down in the fields. One tornado went through the Lark area and two other tornadoes touched down south of Carson.

The Bismarck Municipal Airport sustained severe roof damages during the thunderstorm that moved through area during the late night of July 19 and early morning of July 20. The Bismarck Forestry Department is inundated with debris removal. Traffic signal and sign damage occurred throughout Bismarck.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Entities responding to the emergency include: public works departments, law enforcement agencies, communication centers, emergency management offices, fire and rescue teams, elected officials, and administrative offices.

STATE: State Radio Communications, N.D. Department of Transportation, N.D. Department of Health, and the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management have been monitoring the situation.

FEDERAL: The National Weather Service continues to monitor conditions and to issue detailed weather information.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Rural residents assisted the Kidder County Sheriff in detaining traffic on main county and township roads until Kidder County Public Works could establish barricades.

The American Red Cross has made its limited supply of flood clean-up kits available in Grand Forks County.

Weather spotters in many counties were called upon to relay information concerning changing conditions.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: During the afternoon of Wednesday, July 18, Pembina County officials utilized the County Emergency Operations Center as a shelter and activated its Communication Warning Annex of the County Disaster Plan.

After the July 19-20 wind storm, communities in Grant County are cleaning up debris from the streets so traffic can resume.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Crews from Minnkota Power Cooperative and Northern Plains Electric Cooperative continue to repair downed lines, towers, and poles.

9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director